

REVIEWS

Report of the British Columbia Botanical Office*

This pamphlet of 70 pages besides containing administrative reports of the Provincial Botanist, has considerable material of interest to phytogeographers and ecologists. The botanical exploration of the province is discussed under "Skagit River Basin," "Bitter-root Grounds near Ashcroft," "Study of the Flora of Dryas Island" and "Contribution to the Flora of Windemere, B. C." Developmental phases of the vegetation are treated at some length, and there are many lists of plant societies arranged in the order of frequency of occurrence of the species. Much welcome information about a botanically little-known region is presented in this report and the author promises further exploration in the future. There are eighteen excellent illustrations of ecological value, and a map of the region explored.

N. T.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

JANUARY 31, 1917

The meeting was held in the morphological laboratory of the New York Botanical Garden at 3:30 P.M. President Richards presided. Twenty-five persons were present. The minutes of January 9 were read and approved.

Professor O. S. Morgan, Columbia University, New York City, was nominated for membership.

Dr. Marshall A. Howe presented the following report of the budget committee, which was adopted by the Club:

"Report of Budget Committee of the Torrey Botanical Club, January 31, 1917"

"Met at the Museum of the N. Y. Botanical Garden at 2:30 P.M. Present: Barnhart (chairman), Harper, Rusby, Evans, Richards, Dodge and Howe. The following estimates of income and outgo for 1917 were made:

* Davidson, J., Third Annual Report of the Botanical Office of the Province of British Columbia. Victoria, B. C., 1916.

| <i>"Estimated Income</i> | | <i>"Estimated Outgo</i> | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Regular dues | \$1,000 | <i>Bulletin</i> | \$1,350 |
| Sustaining members, dues | 100 | TORREYA | 525 |
| <i>Bulletin</i> | 600 | Memoirs | — |
| TORREYA | 125 | Index cards | 150 |
| Memoirs | 50 | Sec. and treas. salary | 300 |
| Index cards | 200 | Sundries | 100 |
| Interest | 75 | | |
| | <u>\$2,150</u> | | <u>\$2,300</u> |
| Estimated deficit | 150 | | |
| | <u>\$2,300</u> | | |

"On motion of Dr. Rusby the three following recommendations were made:

"1. That the annual dues for sustaining members be reduced to \$10 in addition to the regular \$5.

"2. That an appeal be made to the members of the Club to contribute towards the removal of the accumulated deficit (now approaching \$2,500).

"3. That for 1917 the number of pages published in the *Bulletin* and TORREYA be reduced by 25 per cent. of the pagination of the volumes of these periodicals for 1916, with the provision that additional pages may be published if pages in excess of 20 for any one paper be paid for by the contributor.

"MARSHALL A. HOWE,
Secretary."

The auditing committee, consisting of Dr. J. H. Barnhart and Dr. M. A. Howe reported that the books of the treasurer had been examined and were found to be correct.

A communication from Dr. Jean Broadhurst relating to the policy of publishing a greater number of abstracts and reviews of botanical papers in TORREYA was read and referred to the board of editors with a recommendation that they report at the meeting of February 28.

The application of Mr. Norman Taylor for a grant of two hundred dollars (\$200) from the Esther Herrman Research Fund was read and referred to a committee. The president appointed Dr. M. A. Howe (chairman), Dr. N. L. Britton and Dr. C. Stuart Gager as such committee.

The resignations of Dr. Forrest Shreve, Edwin D. Hull and L. S. Hopkins were read and accepted.

The first paper on the announced scientific program was read by Dr. J. C. Arthur, on "The Nature of Species in the Rusts."

Dr. E. W. Olive followed with a paper on "Some Cytological Features of Porto Rican Endophyllums." An abstract of this paper follows:

"Certain facts concerning the comparative cytology of all six of the species now known were presented. Attention was called in particular to the number of nuclei occurring in the mycelium and pseudoparenchyma, as well as to certain noteworthy features of the haustoria, spores, peridium and intercalary cells. For example, the mycelium of *Botryorhiza* is 5-7 micr. in diameter, while that of the other Endophyllums does not exceed 3 mic. Further, the large botryose haustoria of *Botryorhiza* almost fill the host cell, being 10-14 mic. in diameter. Although the sexual fusions were not studied, the likelihood of such fusions taking place at the base of the sori was pointed out in connection with those three Endophyllums which possess mycelia with uninucleate cells; in the other three instances with binucleate mycelia, the fusions are undoubtedly pushed back, taking place some time before sorus formation."

Meeting adjourned.

B. O. DODGE,
Secretary

FEBRUARY 13, 1917

The meeting was held in the American Museum of Natural History at 8:15 P.M. President Richards occupied the chair. There were thirty persons present.

The transaction of business was dispensed with and the announced scientific program was carried out. Dr. W. A. Murrill and Dr. H. B. Douglass gave a joint paper on "Mushroom Poisoning." Dr. Murrill discussed a number of edible and poisonous species of mushrooms, illustrating his descriptions with colored lantern slides. Dr. Douglass gave an account of a case of mushroom poisoning of himself and other members of his family, due to eating quantities of a species of *Panaeolus*, identified by Dr.

Murrill as *Panaeolus semiglobatus* Murrill. Dr. Douglass also discussed several types of poisoning by mushrooms, illustrating by charts the principal features of his discussion. These papers will be published in the journals of the Club.

Meeting adjourned.

B. O. DODGE,
Secretary

NEWS ITEMS

In connection with the nation-wide movement to increase the available food supply for the current year, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden has furnished the entire time, so far as needed, of an expert gardener to inspect the soil of vacant lots in Brooklyn, and to give advice to individuals, neighborhood groups, and other organizations on planting and the cultivation of crops. The garden has also served as the center of distribution of seed potatoes in Brooklyn for Mayor Mitchel's food supply committee. Several thousand additional copies of the Garden's *Leaflets* on "The Small Vegetable Garden," and "Some Insect Pests," have been called for. A special class has been started for the training of older boys in vegetable gardening, and over two acres of the Botanic Garden grounds have been planted, chiefly to potatoes and beans.

Barrington Moore, a recently elected member of the Club, has gone to Plattsburgh with the Officer's Reserve Corps. Mr. Moore was appointed a curator of Forestry at the American Museum of Natural History in January, 1917.

The Detroit *Free Press* records the death on May 15th of Samuel Alexander, long known for his studies of *Helianthus*. Born in Ohio January 6, 1841, he went to Michigan when fourteen years old, serving later in the Civil War. During the twentieth anniversary celebration of the New York Botanical Garden, in September, 1915, he delivered a paper on the classification of sunflowers, having devoted many years to this study. He had published a few scientific papers in the Michigan Academy of Sciences Reports, and is reported to have "had in preparation a book on botanical subjects."